

14th June, 2024

1. NEET-UG Results Controversy

Recent events of importance

- **Why in News:**
 - On June 13th, the Supreme Court was reviewing petitions challenging the award of grace marks to 1,563 candidates from six NEET centres who experienced technical issues and weren't given the full 3.2 hours to complete the exam.
 - These grace marks were awarded based on a court order and a recommendation from a committee formed by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
 - Petitioners argued that the grant of grace marks was arbitrary and lacked transparency.
- **Union Government's Stand:**
 - The Union government informed the Supreme Court that the scorecards of 1,563 candidates who received grace marks in the NEET-UG 2024 exam on May 5 will be cancelled.
 - These candidates will have the opportunity to retake the exam on June 23, with results expected by June 30 and counselling starting on July 6.
 - The affected candidates will be notified of their actual scores without the grace marks and can choose to either take the re-test or accept their revised scores as final.
- **About National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET):**
 - The NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) is an entrance examination for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical courses (MBBS/BDS) and postgraduate courses (MD/MS) in government or private medical colleges.
 - **Objective:** To standardize the admission process for medical and dental courses across India, ensuring a uniform evaluation of candidates' eligibility.
 - The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** conducts NEET on behalf of the Ministry of Education.
- **About National Testing Agency (NTA):**
 - The NTA is an autonomous organization in India responsible for conducting entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
 - The NTA was established in November 2017 by the Ministry of Education to standardize and streamline the conduct of entrance exams across the country.
 - **Objective:** To improve the quality and transparency of entrance examinations, ensuring fairness and efficiency in the assessment process.
 - **Functions:**
 - ◆ **Conducting Exams:** The NTA conducts various national-level entrance examinations for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
 - ◆ **Developing Question Papers:** The NTA is responsible for developing high-quality question papers.
 - ◆ **Result Processing:** The NTA processes examination results efficiently, ensuring timely release of scores and ranks.
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - Overall, the National Testing Agency plays a crucial role in India's education system by providing a reliable, transparent, and efficient framework for conducting entrance examinations.
- **About the NEET-UG Results Controversy:**
 - On June 4, the National Testing Agency (NTA) released the results for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, Undergraduate (NEET UG) 2024 examination.
 - **Approximately 2.4 million candidates participated** in the NEET UG test held on May 5 across 571 cities, including 14 centers outside India.

The allegations over NEET-UG, 2024

Why has the Union government told the Supreme Court that it will cancel the score cards of candidates who have been awarded grace marks? How did the National Testing Agency respond to the various charges against the conduct of the exam?

EXPLANER

THE STORY SO FAR

In June 2024, the Union government admitted to the Supreme Court that the score cards of 1,563 candidates who were given grace marks in the NEET-UG 2024 exam, held on May 5, will be cancelled. The court will be held for them, likely on June 23. Results would be out by June 30 and the counselling for seats can begin by July 6. These candidates will be notified of their actual scores, without the grace marks, and they can choose to take another test, if they opt not to sit for the re-test, their scores, without the grace marks will be the final score.

What happened? The court is hearing petitions challenging the award of grace marks to the 1,563 candidates from six NEET centres in the country, using a "technicality" to argue that the grace marks were not allowed for the full period of 3.2 hours to write the exam, due to technical issues. Based on a court order, the grace marks were awarded to these candidates on the recommendation of a committee constituted by the National Testing Agency (NTA), the body which conducts NEET. It was charged that the grant of grace marks was arbitrary and not transparent.

What are charges against NEET 2024? In NEET, students have to answer 200 questions, 180 types, totaling 720 marks. For each right answer, the student will score four marks, with one mark deducted for a wrong answer. However, only marks will be scored by candidates. It was the grace marks that caused confusion, the NTA added. However, this is not the only charge or case in court against NEET 2024. This



Students at a NEET-UG 2024 exam centre in Bengaluru on May 5, 2024.

near there has been a history of charges that go beyond a question paper leak, including the slow distribution of question papers, providing the wrong question paper, wrong 180 sheets, and technical delays. Post evaluation, there have been complaints about the unusually high number of students (97) who hit the perfect score, 720/720, and about students who scored "statistically impossible" marks, while some cases of cheating by proxy were also unearthed. Other cases pertaining to the question paper leak are still to be heard by the Supreme Court. In the past, the exam has been dogged by charges of poor organisation and inadequate planning, besides questionable rules on what candidates

THE NEET exam in 2024. This purely recommendatory nature has been found to be an anomaly of error and therefore, the claim that the logical thing would be to cancel the May 5 marks for all candidates and conduct a re-test. It indicates a failure of the system and how it fails, students complained on social media.

What was the NTA's response? NTA officials attributed the "very paper" to the unusual number of full scores this year. But the NTA still maintained a four-member committee to go into the matter behind the allegations made this year. The panel found that the 1,563 students, awarded a "statutory default", were not held to the attempted questions alone, and while the panel did not comment further on how many marks were granted in compensation, it concluded that it would be best to cancel the test for these students alone.

What next? Students and education experts have already expressed dissatisfaction with the cancellation of 1,563 students, that it is an admission of error and therefore, the claim that the logical thing would be to cancel the May 5 marks for all candidates and conduct a re-test. It indicates a failure of the system and how it fails, students complained on social media.

Instead of mulling the effects on, a measure of ensuring the quality of candidates appearing for the medical entrance, the way NEET is being conducted has caused several additional layers of problems. For an exam of this size and scale, where over 23 lakh students take the test in about 570 centres across the country, in multiple languages, small issues tend to crop up.

However, the test has been around for nearly a decade, and it is reasonable to expect that the NTA would have a system in place to handle such issues. Preventing fraud and application of mind on the part of students who did not have adequate time should be extremely possible, certainly by the government agencies.

THE GIST

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■ Origin

- ◆ Experts believe the Cold War era, which began after the end of the Second World War in 1945, led to conditions that favoured grey zone warfare.
- ◆ Amid the US-USSR rivalry for ideological and economic dominance, the knowledge that both parties were armed with nuclear weapons meant direct conflicts had to be restrained.
- ◆ In today's nuclear age, the price of traditional wars has become too high, and the danger of things getting worse is very serious.
- ◆ Because of this, countries are trying to achieve their goals by being aggressive in secret or by hiding.

● Examples of grey zone warfare

- Experts from the US and Europe have characterised certain Russian and Chinese actions of late as examples of grey zone warfare.
- It includes the Chinese military's presence in the South China Sea.
 - ◆ The Philippines is one of the countries which has challenged China's claims, extending over around 80 per cent of the region.
 - ◆ In December 2023, it termed the presence of more than 135 Chinese maritime militia vessels near a disputed reef as illegal.
 - ◆ It accused China of firing water cannons at its boats and ramming into others, while the Chinese coast guard blamed the Philippines for hitting Chinese boats.
- A recent Reuters report mentioned that Taiwan has been expressing concerns for the past four years about increased military actions by China.
 - ◆ This includes Chinese fighter jets flying over the strait regularly.
 - ◆ It is part of China's strategy to pressure Taiwan with activities that fall just short of starting a full-scale conflict.
- Analysts claim that the US has also engaged in similar tactics.
 - ◆ These include its economic sanctions against China and imposition of duties on Chinese imports to the US, along with maritime reconnaissance.

● Grey zone warfare - a separate category of action

- The challenges that grey zone warfare poses differ from those of an open conflict.
 - ◆ Here, action is often covert or indirect, meaning a country's response needs to be appropriate in terms of its scale.
 - ◆ These actions could be designed to bait the other party into escalation.
 - ◆ If this happens, the use of force would then be legitimised as a form of self-defence or response in kind to what the other party does.
- Other reasons for engaging in such tactics include the projection of strength, and to normalise disputed territorial claims by repeatedly marking a presence in those regions.
- Judging by its appearance, grey zone conflict seems mild when compared to traditional strategic competition.
- However, the limited intensity does not make grey zone conflict less vicious.
- Rather than escalate in one-dimension, grey zone conflict tends to escalate in multiple dimensions and leads to unintended over-escalation, creating a nightmare for crisis management.

● China's Grey-Zone Warfare Tactics Against Taiwan

- New Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te's tenure is marked by pro-independence and secessionist statements. As a result, China has shifted to sophisticated grey-zone warfare tactics targeting Lai's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP).
- **Tactics employed by China**
 - ◆ These tactics include psychological operations, simulated invasion scenarios, and economic measures aimed at weakening Taiwan without direct military engagement.
 - ◆ The PLA Eastern Theater Command conducts training drills to demonstrate combat readiness, while 3D animations and videos depict potential missile strikes.
 - ◆ China also employs **cognitive tactics**, such as disseminating propaganda videos and fliers within Taiwanese territories to influence public opinion and create ideological divisions.
 - ◆ Economically, China has **suspended preferential tax rates** for Taiwanese chemical imports to leverage economic interdependence for political concessions.
- These measures continuously pressure and destabilize Taiwan, challenging President Lai's administration to navigate and counter these grey-zone tactics effectively.

3. G7 Summit in Italy - Leaders agree to lend Ukraine GS 2 (International events of importance)

● Why in news:

- The Group of Seven (G7) countries are meeting for the Leaders' Summit in Italy's Apulia region between June 13 and 15. Italy had assumed the group's presidency earlier this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also attending the summit as India has been invited as an Outreach Country. This visit will mark his first foreign trip in his third term as Prime Minister.
- During the first day, the participating leaders have agreed to engineer a \$50 billion loan to help Ukraine in its fight for survival.

● G7

■ Origin

- ◆ The origin of G7 lies in the **oil shocks of 1973 and the corresponding financial crisis.**
- ◆ In order to address the situation after oil shock, the heads of the **world's six leading industrial nations decided to hold a meeting in 1975.**
- ◆ These six nations were - **US, UK, France, Germany (West), Japan and Italy.**
- ◆ These countries were **joined by Canada in 1976.**

■ Current Members: **US, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan**

- ◆ It can be said that the members of this group are the **most developed and the advanced economies of the world.**
- ◆ The **European Union is also represented** within the G7.

■ Purpose of G7

- ◆ To determine the course of multilateral discourse
- ◆ To shape political responses to global challenges.
- ◆ It provides a platform to discuss and coordinate solutions to major global issues, especially in the areas of trade, security, economics, and climate change.

■ Power of G7

- ◆ The G7 is **not based on a treaty** and has **no permanent secretariat or office.** The agenda of G7 is set by the presiding nation.
- ◆ It **cannot pass any laws** because it is made up of separate nations with their own democratic processes. However, decisions taken by G7 have global effects as the member countries are political and economic heavyweights.

■ G7 & G8

- ◆ In 1998, Russia was formally inducted in the group, which transformed **G7 into G8.**
- ◆ However, Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. As a result, it was suspended from the grouping. Hence, the group became **G7 again in 2014.**

● Significance of G7

■ Economic Significance

- ◆ G7 nations account for
 - ~ **60% of global net wealth**
 - ~ **30% of global gross domestic product**, and
 - ~ **10% of the world's population.**

■ Political Significance

- ◆ In 1999, it created the Financial Stability Forum in order to manage the international monetary system

GROUP CALLS ON ISRAEL TO REFRAIN FROM FULL-SCALE RAFAH OFFENSIVE **G7 Summit begins with \$50-bn loan deal for Ukraine using Russian assets**

Kremlin calls decision criminal, says its response will be very painful for EU

REPORTERS
ROMA, ITALY, JUNE 13

LEADERS OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN (G7) major democracies agreed on an outline deal on Thursday to provide \$50 billion of loans for Ukraine using interest from Russian sovereign assets frozen after Moscow invaded in September 2022.

The political agreement was the centrepiece of the opening day in southern Italy of the annual summit of G7 leaders, attended by a record number of world leaders.

It said it had agreed a 10-year loan facility for Ukraine and that Japan would provide Ukraine with \$5 billion this year. Zelenskyy will also sign a new long-term security pact with G7 President Joe Biden.

The G7 plan for Ukraine to hand on a credit line for financing purchases of US-made F-16 fighter jets and other military equipment.

The technical details are to be worked out by the finance ministers of the G7, who will meet in Rome on Thursday.

The summit was the first time that the G7 leaders had agreed to provide such a large sum of money to another country.



(From left) European Council President Charles Michel, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, US President Joe Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at Borgo Caputo, southern Italy, Thursday.



US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron at the summit.

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The plan of the deal was to ensure it can run for years regardless of who is in power in each G7 state - a goal to ensure that US Republics can provide the much long-term support to Ukraine.

The G7 has also agreed to provide a \$5 billion loan to Ukraine this year. Zelenskyy will also sign a new long-term security pact with G7 President Joe Biden.

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China's industrial capacity, which is capable of producing a large number of warships, is a major concern for the G7. The group is also concerned about the impact of China's economic growth on the global economy.

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- ◆ 47th summit in June 2021 had focused on the recovery from ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It promised to **distribute 1 billion vaccines** to poorer countries.
- ◆ Its theme was **Global Action to Build Back Better**.
- **Developmental Significance**
 - ◆ G-7 provided \$300 million in 1997 to help build the containment of the reactor meltdown at Chernobyl.
 - ◆ G7 played crucial role in setting up a global fund to fight malaria and Aids in 2002.
 - ◆ In October 2020, G7 finance ministers backed an extension of a **G20 bilateral debt relief initiative for the world's poorest countries**
- **Criticism of G7**
 - **Declining economic might**
 - ◆ The relevance of G7 has been questioned in recent years as the combined share of its members in global GDP has fallen.
 - ◆ The economic growth of China, India and other emerging economies has led to calls for a more representative global governance structure.
 - ◆ In comparison, the G20, which was established in response to the 2008 financial crisis, is seen as a more inclusive forum.
 - **G7's ability to achieve cooperation within the group**
 - ◆ Then US President Donald Trump was often at odds with other G7 leaders and at the 2019 summit, he skipped a meeting on climate issues.
 - **Proposal to reconfigure the group**
 - ◆ Leaders had proposed a reconfigured G7+, which would include a common euro-zone representative and make space for China, India, and Brazil.
- **Agenda at the 2024 G7 summit**
 - The summit aims to coordinate economic policies to stabilise the global economy amidst concerns over inflation and trade tensions.
 - It will focus on addressing climate change by discussing strategies to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable energy sources.
 - With climate records tumbling recently, collective action is key to addressing such problems.
 - In light of the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, the G7 will prioritise global health initiatives, including pandemic preparedness and vaccine distribution.
 - Additionally, the summit will address geopolitical tensions, including relations with China and Russia, and ongoing conflicts with global implications.
- **\$50 billion loan to Ukraine**
 - During the ongoing G7 summit in Italy, the participating leaders agreed to engineer a \$50 billion loan to help Ukraine in its fight for survival.
 - **Interest earned on profits from Russia's frozen central bank assets would be used as collateral.**
 - The US and its allies immediately froze whatever Russian central bank assets they had access to when Moscow invaded Ukraine in 2022.
 - That basically was money being held in banks outside Russia.
 - Most of the money would be in the form of a loan mostly guaranteed by the US government, backed by profits being earned on roughly \$260 billion in immobilised Russian assets.
 - The vast majority of that money is held in European Union nations.

4. Great Nicobar Island

Recent events of importance

- **Why in News:** A delegation of the Central Government recently visited Great Nicobar, the site for the Rs. 750000 crore greenfield composite project centered around a transshipment port.
- **About Great Nicobar Island:**
 - It is the **southernmost island of the Nicobar Islands** Archipelago, located in the southeast of the Bay of Bengal.
 - It is the **largest** of the Nicobar group of islands, spanning 1,045 square kilometers.
 - **Headquarters:** Campbell Bay
 - Indira Point, situated in Campbell Bay, is the southernmost point of India and is only about 150 km from Sumatra, Indonesia.

- The population consists mostly of two indigenous communities: **Shompen**, a largely nomadic hunter-gatherer Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, and **Nicobarese**, a semi-traditional Scheduled Tribe.
- It has **tropical wet evergreen forests**, hill ranges nearly 650 m high, and coastal plains.
- A large portion of the island is covered by dense forests, which are home to a variety of endemic biodiversity, including the Nicobar megapode, the Nicobar tree shrew, and the Nicobar long-tailed macaque.
- The only biosphere reserve in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the **Great Nicobar biosphere reserve** encompasses a large part (some 85%) of the island.
- The island also comprises a hill range with its highest point being around 642 meters above sea level at Mount Thuillier.
- The region also has **coral reefs** with varied thicknesses and diversity.
- The island has many rivers, such as the Alexandra, Dogmar, Galathea, and Amrit Kaur, all of which flow in a south-western or southern direction, which in turn signifies the southern slope of the island.

5. Lipulekh Pass

Recent events of importance

- **Why in News:** Indian traders involved in border trade with China through the Lipulekh pass have requested the central government to take up the issue of resumption of border trade through this route.
- **About Lipulekh Pass:**
 - It is a **high-altitude mountain pass** located in the **Kumaon region of Uttarakhand**, near the **tri junction of India, Nepal and China**.
 - It links the Indian state of **Uttarakhand with the Tibet region** of China.
 - It lies at an altitude of approximately 5,334 meters (17,500 feet).
 - The pass is renowned for its challenging terrain, marked by steep ascents and rugged landscapes.
 - Its elevation and strategic location make it a **gateway to the higher reaches of the Himalayas**.
 - **Ancient Trade Route:** It has been utilized for centuries as a trade route, connecting the Indian subcontinent with the Tibetan plateau.
 - **Religious Significance:** The pass also has religious significance, being an integral part of the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**, a sacred pilgrimage for Hindus.
 - Devotees undertake this arduous journey to reach Mount Kailash, considered the abode of Lord Shiva, and the nearby Mansarovar Lake.
 - It is the **first Indian border post opened for trade with China in 1992**.
 - This was followed by the opening of Shipki La Pass, Himachal Pradesh in 1994 and Nathu La Pass, Sikkim in 2006.

6. Standards applied in death sentence cases

Recent events of importance

- **Why in News:** President Murmu has rejected a mercy petition filed by Pakistani national Mohammed Arif who was sentenced to death for the December 22, 2000 terrorist attack at the Red Fort in which three people including two Army jawans were killed.
- **More on News:**
 - The court has reaffirmed the “rarest of rare” standard in several decisions.
 - The Report of the **262nd Law Commission**, published in 2015, recommended the “**absolute abolition**” of the death penalty “for all crimes other than terrorism related offences and waging war”
 - **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 21** (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.
 - Any deprivation of this right must follow the procedure established by law.
 - **Article 72 and Article 161** provide the President and Governors with the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit, or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence.
 - **Judicial Principles:**
 - **Rarest of the Rare Doctrine:** Established in the landmark case of **Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)**, the Supreme Court of India held that the death penalty should only be awarded in the “rarest of the rare” cases, where the alternative option is unquestionably foreclosed.

- **Proportionality and Balancing Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances:** Courts must weigh aggravating circumstances (such as the nature and gravity of the crime) against mitigating circumstances (such as the socio-economic background, age, or mental condition of the offender) before deciding on the death penalty.
- **Judicial Review and Confirmation:** The death sentence pronounced by a trial court must be **confirmed by the High Court**.
- Further, the Supreme Court can review the case, and there are provisions for mercy petitions to the President and Governors.
- **Statutory Provisions:**
 - **Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860:** Specifies offenses that are punishable by death, including **murder** (Section 302), **treason** (Section 121), **terrorism-related offenses** (Section 121A), and others.
 - **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973:** Provides procedural safeguards for the accused in death penalty cases, such as the requirement for the sentence to be confirmed by a higher court (Section 366) and the right to appeal (Section 374).
 - **Special Laws:** Certain special legislations, such as the **Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA)**, **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS)**, and **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO)**, also prescribe the death penalty for specific crimes.

7. Nagastra GS 2 (Security)

- **Why in News:** The army has got its first indigenous man-portable suicide drones that are designed to target enemy training camps, launch pads and infiltrators with precision, without endangering the lives of soldiers.
- **About:**
 - The Indian army has integrated the Nagastra 1 **loitering munition**, designed by **Economic Explosives Limited (EEL)**, as its first indigenous **man-portable suicide drone**.
 - These drones enhance the army's **precision strike capabilities** against enemy training camps and infiltrators, with a focus on reducing dependence on imports and promoting self-reliance in defence technology.
 - With the **potential for exports to friendly nations**, Nagastra 1 showcases India's advancement in developing cost-effective solutions for modern warfare.
 - **Key Features:**
 - The Nagastra-1 is fully designed and developed in India, with an **indigenous content of over 75%**.
 - The drone can carry out GPS-enabled precision strikes with an **accuracy of 2 meters and has a range of almost 30 km**.
 - The drone has a low acoustic signature and electric propulsion, making it a silent killer.
 - The drone has a **parachute recovery** mechanism, which can bring back the munition in case of an aborted mission, enabling it to be used multiple times.
 - The drone weighs 6 kg and **can stay airborne for up to 60 minutes**.

8. Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) GS 3 (Environment)

- **Why in News:** A new study released June 11, 2024, has reported the first significant decrease in atmospheric concentrations of potent ozone-depleting substances (ODS) known as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
- **More on News:**
 - Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) are chemicals that cause **the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer**.
 - This layer is crucial for protecting life on Earth by absorbing the majority of the sun's **harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation**.
 - The most common ODS include **chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)**, **Halons**, **Carbon Tetrachloride** and **Methyl Chloroform**.
 - ODS are substances commonly used in **refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers and aerosols**.
- **The Montreal Protocol:**
 - The Montreal Protocol, signed in **1987**, is a global agreement to **protect the stratospheric ozone layer** by eliminating the production and consumption of ODSs like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).
 - The worldwide production of CFCs has been prohibited since 2010.

- **Kigali Amendment to Montreal Protocol:**

- In 2016, Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted the **Kigali Amendment** to phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) worldwide.
- **HFCs are widely used alternatives to ODS** such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), already controlled under the Protocol.

9. Kavli Prize

Recent events of importance

- **Why in News:** The winners of the 2024 Kavli Prize were announced on Wednesday. Eight winners were awarded for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience and nanoscience.
- **More on News:**
 - It is awarded in honour of **Norwegian-American** businessman and philanthropist **Fred Kavli** (1927-2013)
 - The Kavli Prizes are awarded in **three areas**: astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience — the largest, the smallest, and the most complex. The inaugural prize was announced in **2008**.
 - **Winners in 2024:**
 - ◆ **ASTROPHYSICS:** This year's prize for astrophysics has been awarded to David Charbonneau, and Sara Seager for **discoveries of exoplanets**, and the characterisation of their atmosphere.
 - ◆ **NANOSCIENCE:** Robert Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, and Chad Mirkin were given the prize **for nanoscience for biomedical applications breakthroughs**.
 - ◆ **NEUROSCIENCE:** The prize in neuroscience has been awarded to Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao for their collective effort over decades **to map the linkage between facial recognition and the brain**.

MCQ Current Affairs
14th June, 2024

1. Indira Point, the southernmost point of India, is located on which one of the following islands?

- a) Little Andaman Island
- b) Great Nicobar Island
- c) Car Nicobar Island
- d) Middle Andaman Island

2. The term “Nagastra”, recently seen in the news, refers to:

- a) a newly developed anti-tank guided missile
- b) an advanced weather satellite
- c) a next-generation ballistic missile defense system
- d) the first indigenous man-portable suicide drone

3. “Rarest of the Rare Doctrine” applied in the death sentence was established in which one of the following cases by Supreme Court of India?

- a) Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980)
- b) Dhananjay Chatterjee v. State of West Bengal (1994)
- c) Kehar Singh v. Union of India (1989)
- d) State of Tamil Nadu v. Nalini (1999)

4. A hawkish stance is when the central bank:

- a) tends to favor lower interest rates
- b) tends to favor higher interest rates
- c) focuses on reducing trade deficits
- d) encourages increased government spending

5. “Kavli Prizes”, recently seen in the news, are awarded for?

- a) Literature, peace and economics
- b) Environmental science, public health and engineering
- c) Astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience
- d) Mathematics, computer science and biology

Answers Current Affairs
14th June, 2024

1. b
2. d
3. a
4. b
5. c

